

Abstract of the Disclosure

In a protection switching method for a passive optical network system, a communication abnormality is detected in at least one active-system virtual path established between an optical line terminal and a subscriber terminal through a transmission path and a network unit. When a communication abnormality is detected in an active-system virtual path, a switch is controlled to switch the transmission paths to establish a standby-system virtual path between the optical line terminal and the subscriber terminal as a communication partner. A protection switching apparatus for a passive optical network system is also disclosed.